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# THE SAGA OF THE COASTERS

## *How the Little Ships ran the Blockade*

THE tale of the heroic deeds of our people in the winning of the war is not yet told. The full story is being revealed, we might say, on the instalment plan, and the latest instalment is as thrilling as any that have been already told. It deals with a very ancient and very important branch of sea power.

To those little ships from which the sea power of the British Empire has sprung the Government has devoted a little book, British Coaster, which tells what they did in the war years from 1939 to 1945 to keep the lifeline of supplies unbroken.

Before the Romans built their roads in Britain the Coasters held the sea roads; they fetched and carried the heavy loads; and when the Merchant Adventurers set about their business in distant lands they recruited seamen and ships from the coasting trade. The Royal Navy manned the first of the King's ships with men from the Coasters. From the earliest times some adventurous master would slip across the Straits of Dover and take his cargo to the near ports of the Continent; and eventually some of the Coasters became regular Continental traders between Brest and the Elbe, and even as far afield as Portugal and Spain.

### Expert Navigation

In the summer of 1940 they were driven from this trade. But they were not driven from the sea or from the coasting trade proper. Through six hazardous years they carried on.

The master of a Coaster has fewer men to help him than any other master mariner. He is nearly always in waters that need careful navigation. By day or night it is the same, but in the blackout the dexterity he attained was almost uncanny.

Such is the Coaster, and such are its men. What they did Dunkirk has told, and Liverpool and Southampton and the Clyde and the outer seas have told; but what we have here to tell is what the Coaster did when she became a blockade-runner.

### Running the Gauntlet

The tale begins in January 1941 when two merchant ships under the Norwegian flag made a voyage from Sweden to bring us much-needed cargo. If that could be done, the men of the Coasters were the men to do it and run the gauntlet of the Skagerrak to bring urgently-needed Swedish products, such as ball-bearings. Special craft were chosen, with high-power Diesel engines and shallow draft, so as to get through minefields and move fast. There was not much room aboard, the lifeboat was a dinghy lashed on the foredeck, and rubber floats were carried against emergency.

Once when the rubber float was hastily launched the paddles were lost. Lesser spirits might have quailed; but the men of the Coaster are used to improvisation, and some minutes later the occupants of the float were seen to be cheerfully breasting the seas with the aid of two frying pans and a lengthy Swedish sausage snatched from the galley.

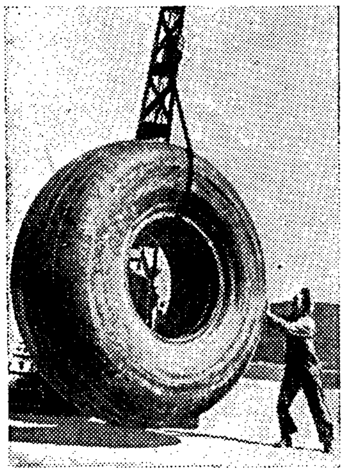
### A Great Task

The men had to be as carefully selected as the equipment, and the selection did not fail. Every man had to fit in, the square peg in his square hole; and in all that the voyagers brought, and of all the chosen men in all the ships only four changes were ever made.

On the eve of the first voyage from Hull the message from the Minister of Transport to the blockade-runners was: "To the officers and men of M V S Nonsuch, Hopewell, Gay Viking, Gay Corsair, and Master Standfast. You are about to embark on an enterprise which will bring lasting honour to the Red Ensign under which you sail. The Prime Minister has told the country that he never calls on the officers and men of the Merchant Navy in vain . . . Your task is great." So it was, and greatly did the Coasters respond to it.

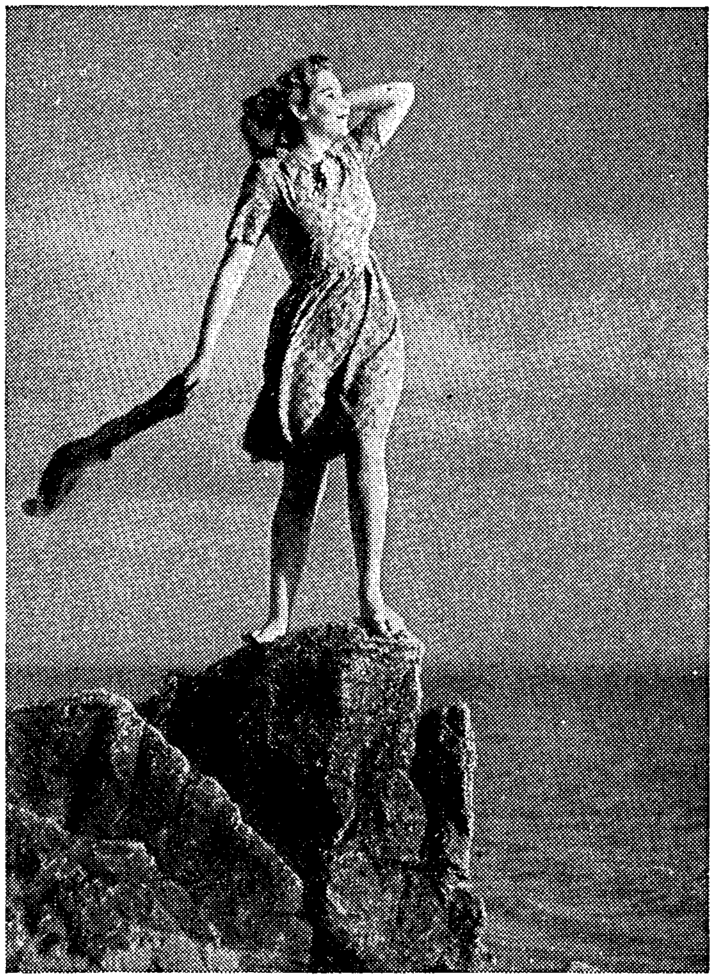
The ships could win through only by escaping the attentions of the enemy: and so activity was confined to the winter months when nights were long and, with luck, there might be moonless weeks and nights of heavy clouds. If spotted by day or in bright moonlight there was death or the prison camp at best.

## BIGGEST TYRE



From America comes this picture of the largest aircraft tyre in the world, now undergoing laboratory tests. It weighs 1400 pounds and is over 9 feet in diameter.

## FAREWELL TO HOLIDAYS



A young holiday-maker, gazing westward from the Lancashire coast, hopes that the sunset portends fine weather for her last days at the seaside.

# How to Live to be a Hundred

THE oldest working farmer in Norfolk, and possibly in the country, Mr Daniel Bullen, of Carbrooke, attended to his business as usual when he celebrated his 101st birthday the other day. 1. He spent the day on the farm, feeding the pigs and poultry.

Mr Bullen, who still enjoys good health, was hard at work with the recent harvest. He can use a scythe and mow nettles and other rubbish as well as many men long years his junior. "Don't worry and keep on doin' suffin'," is his motto for the long life.

During his birthday he walked a quarter of a mile to call on a neighbour, with whose father he worked a couple of harvests 88 years ago. Later he himself received a call from one of his friends, the retired village blacksmith, who is 82. One of the cakes cut at a family party was decorated, in time-honoured fashion, with 101 candles.

## RUNNING THE BLOCKADE

Continued from column 2

The navigation of their frail swift craft, in daylight with the continuous risk of interception, at night without lights or any aid to navigation of the kind, often in foul weather conditions, was something more than a feat. It was a miracle.

Through the entire winter of 1943-44, the blockade-runners, their clothes always wet, and sometimes stiff with ice, raced between Hull and Sweden bringing to British factories supplies urgently needed. But the men never quailed, their hearts never failed.

Towards the end of their first dash across the Skaggerak, a hostile aircraft was seen to be approaching the Gay Viking and "action stations" was sounded. One of the Vickers guns on the bridge was manned by the steward. As the plane roared into the attack, that optimist cuddled his gun lovingly and called to the Master, Captain H. Whitfield, "Shall I get him down, sir, or shall I just cripple him."

For all on board each voyage was a long-drawn strain; but if the seamen had their troubles, they were as nothing to those of the unfortunate German consul in a certain Swedish port, for with characteristic cheek the little ships chose to berth under the very windows of his office, loading war materials for England while he fumed in vain. The Swedes of course, welcomed them—welcomed them as simple men like themselves, men of the sea like themselves.

# The Turtle Turns North

## *TALES OF LUTH AND LOGGERHEAD*

NOT long ago a Scottish fisherman from Campbeltown, Argyllshire, was astonished to see a turtle about five miles from the Island of Sanda, Mull of Kintyre. Turtles nearly always keep to tropical seas, but this one may have been tempted to make a trip north by the brilliant weather this summer.

The report does not say what species the turtle was, but it may well have been the big Leathery Turtle, largest of the turtle tribe, which is often more than six feet in length. These turtles inhabit the tropical regions of the Atlantic but occasionally wander to the British Isles. The leathery turtle, or luth, differs from the rest of his family in that his carapace, or shell, consists of a number of discs of bone closely joined together.

### Airmen's Adventure

Another large turtle that sometimes finds its way north is the Loggerhead, which lives in all warm seas, including the Mediterranean. During the war some British airmen had a queer adventure with one of these creatures. Their plane had been shot down in the Battle of Malta and they had taken to their rubber dinghy. As they were pulling for the shore, a huge and very ugly head suddenly appeared over the side of their frail boat and stared at them in that rude, unblinking way that turtles have.

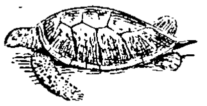
Clearly it meant to be "at loggerheads" with them for it grabbed the side of their dinghy in its strong curved beak and tried to upset them. They had a hard struggle before they drove old pro-Nazi loggerhead away.

Perhaps he was not taking sides, but trying to revenge a particularly cunning way some humans have of catching turtles.

### The Sucking Fish

In China and Mozambique fishermen take sucking-fishes to the place where turtles are basking on the sea near the shore. Each sucking-fish has a ring round its body and to this is attached a line. The sucking-fish are released and swim to the turtles, where they fasten themselves to sleepers' backs by means of their sucking discs. As soon as a sucking-fish has got a secure hold—which it will not release easily—it is drawn towards the shore together with the turtle.

That is just one of the many dangers a turtle has to face; in fact he is lucky to grow up at all. When he is hatched, he and his 200 or so brothers and sisters are at once the prey of land-crabs and various birds; and if he succeeds in reaching the sea, swarms of hungry fishes are waiting for him.



A life of hazards, indeed, is the turtle's.

# ALL EYES ON LAKE SUCCESS

THE third meeting of the General Assembly of the United Nations opens this week at Lake Success, New York. Here the representatives of 55 nations are met together to discuss many problems now facing the world, some of them very important, some less important.

Ordinary people in this or other countries may ask: Is the General Assembly of any use to *us?* Little good has lately been said about the United Nations. The noise of political and economical quarrels all over the world, again, would suggest that we can expect but little comfort from discussion alone. However, the history of mankind proves that, on the contrary, discussion is often the most important first step which can be taken to heal our ills. It is from this angle that we should look at the Assembly.

The agenda of this town meeting, as it were, of the world make an interesting reading. Subjects range from adoption of a United Nations flag and proclamation of United Nations Charter Day (June 26—the anniversary of the signing of the United Nations Charter at San Francisco) to such important problems as the solution of the veto question and a discussion on Palestine.

Other vital matters include a proposal to admit new members to the United Nations. Applications will be heard from some of our former enemies such as Hungary, Italy, Austria, and Rumania as well as from Transjordan and distant Mongolia.

The question of future relations with Franco Spain is also on the agenda, and there is likely to be a very brisk discussion on what to do with this régime.

The important news of what is going on in the vast non-selfgoverning territories, or Mandates, will be brought to the notice of the world in reports submitted to the Assembly by Britain, Australia, the Netherlands, France, Belgium, and the United States. Although the U S has no mandated territories in the strict sense of the word it is responsible for a large number of formerly Japanese islands in the Pacific.

Children, too, particularly unhappy European orphans, now a charge of the International Children's Emergency Fund, will get the sympathetic attention of the Assembly. The problem is to find more money to keep the Fund going, for it is obvious that the £100,000 or so handed over to the Fund by Unrra will go nowhere in meeting the needs of the 3,250,000 necessitous children.

And finally the Assembly will learn some new facts about the magnificent gift by Mr John D. Rockefeller Jr of over £2,000,000 to purchase a New York site on which to erect the permanent headquarters of the United Nations.

Although many of the 43 points to be discussed at Lake Success may look unexciting, although some of them may cause a good deal of excitement or even severe clashes, it is important to bear in mind that, whatever its shortcomings, the General Assembly of the United Nations is today a real Parliament of Mankind. Like many Parliaments in the history of Britain or other countries it may show weaknesses; but there can be no doubt that its efforts will finally lead to the victory of democracy and the reign of peace everywhere.

# Moscow's 800 Years

WITH the Mayors of some of the world's greatest cities as guests, the city of Moscow has just been celebrating the 800th anniversary of its foundation.

Though little is known of its earliest day, an old record tells how Yuri Dolgoruki, Prince of Suzdal, there met one Svyatoslav of Novgorod Syeversk in the year 1147. Prior to this, Finns dwelt thereabouts, but the Great Russians, or Slavs, seem to have established themselves at Moscow about this time. Early in the 13th century when the Tatars overran Russia, Moscow's ruler, Yaroslav II, Prince of Vladimir, became their vassal.

During the succeeding reigns the city continued to grow in area and importance, chiefly owing to its favourable situation on the northern trade route. Christianity had been established, and early in the 14th century the Metropolitan Bishop moved his See from Vladimir to Moscow, securing a charter from the Khan. The Kremlin had been built in 1300 and from then onwards palaces and great churches rose to enrich a city which by the 16th century had become the capital of the "Tsar of All the Russias." And so it remained until 1703 when Peter the Great founded St Petersburg (now Leningrad) as the new capital of his Empire and a "Window to look out into Europe."

Nevertheless, Moscow always remained to his countrymen the real capital and the holy city of all the Russias, and was officially restored to that status in 1918.

# LIGHT AND LEARNING

ANY who want to learn sculpture; or how to trim a hat; or how to cook the dinner; or how to make jam; or, in lighter vein, to learn "Shakespeare and the musical glasses," may find a floodlight cast on their opportunities in the L C C's publication of that name.

Floodlight contains an alphabetical list of more than 1000 subjects in which the evening classes beginning this month will afford instruction and practical training; it states where the institutes are, and what the fees are, from as little as eighteenpence to thirty shillings a year.

The L C C's classes and the syllabus set the pattern for all such endeavours to raise the standard of real education throughout the country. They are supplemented at certain of the institutes by the formal preparation of students for matriculation, intermediate, and degree final, where candidates may be registered as students of London University.

# "Hawkeye," Chief of Scouts

FEW men have crowded into their lives so much adventure as Major Frederick Russell Burnham, whose 86 years have just ended at Santa Barbara, California.

He was B P's comrade-in-arms in the Second Matabele War and by him was christened "Hawkeye." But South Africa knew him before that because he had made an adventurous journey in a donkey cart (bringing his wife and child with him) from Durban to Matabeleland in time to take a hand in the First Matabele War, where he was one of the two survivors of Major Wilson's heroic band when surrounded by 4000 Zulus at Rorke's Drift.

But adventures began for this American lad early, for after supporting his family as a boy of 13 in the peaceful occupation of a mounted messenger to the Union Telegraph Company, and after trying his hand at mining and ranching in Arizona, he turned to learn the art of scouting against the most wily of foes in the Apache War. But even this was not enough, for he was a hero worshipper and his idol was Cecil Rhodes, so off he went to South Africa, where he found in Matabeleland as much excitement as any normal man could want. But not enough for him.

## A Friend of Britain

He filled up a gap in an absence from South Africa with the Klondike Gold Rush with all its hardships and perils, and was still with it when he received a telegram from Lord Roberts inviting him to act as his Chief of Scouts in the South African War with the rank of Major in the British Army. That job finished, he retired to take a holiday in a varied round of exploring, big-game hunting, and prospecting. But the old warrior had not even then put off his harness, urging his native America to take part in the recent war. And when that war was done with he had the energy to build himself a new home in Santa Barbara.

Major Burnham had everything—humour, shrewdness, integrity and modesty—and he was a sincere friend of Britain and a believer in the destiny of the British Empire.

# MORE BOTTLED MAIL

WHILE fishing beyond the Eddystone Lighthouse, some Cornishmen saw what appeared to be a child's toy yacht afloat.

Overcome with curiosity, they decided to capture this strange craft. So they drew near and hauled it out of the sea. It was a large, screw-topped glass bottle of American type, fitted with sail and keel.

There were three letters inside with English addresses, four florins, two pennies, and a threepenny piece. The florins were of a dull green colour, which seemed to indicate that the little "mail boat" had been travelling a long time.

When the fishermen went ashore, of course, they sent the letters further on their way.

# WORLD NEWS REEL

**WINDFALL.** The Mexican Government is to pay Britain a sum of over £32,000,000 as compensation for oilfields taken over. It will be paid in American dollars in instalments during the next 15 years.

About 150 American teachers will change places with British teachers next year under the Interchange Scheme.

*Some 260 young German children have gone from the British Zone to stay in Sweden for a year.*

**JUBILEE YEAR.** Queen Wilhelmina has begun her 50th year as ruling sovereign of the Netherlands.

A half-ship is to be towed 12,000 miles from Belfast to New Zealand to be fitted to a ship damaged at Wellington earlier this year.

*Britain is to send 52 ships and four whaling factories to the Antarctic during the next whaling season.*

**RECORD.** The commercial record for the Montreal-to-London flight was broken by a Skymaster which did the trip in 10 hours 45 minutes. The previous record was 11 hours 35 minutes, made by a Liberator in 1943.

Captain William Odom, who flew round the world in record time last month, intends to circle the globe again in November, flying over both North and South Poles.

*Hundreds of members of the Indian Civil Service have received offers of posts from the Pakistan Government.*

**PICTURES ON TOUR.** About 120 paintings and drawings representative of contemporary British Art are to be exhibited in leading art galleries and museums in South Africa during the next twelve months.

Australia is to export to this country at least 50 million bushels of wheat from this year's harvest.

# HOME NEWS REEL

**RESEARCH WORK.** The Fresh Water Biological Association are negotiating for the purchase of a site for an experimental station in the Avon Valley, near Fordingbridge, Hampshire.

The British Museum Print Room is again open to the public; so is Sir John Soane's Museum in Lincoln's Inn Fields.

*A portrait of John Wesley by Frank Salisbury has been unveiled in Central Hall, Westminster.*

**FOR HIGH-FLYING.** A huge aircraft testing chamber, over 80 feet long, is being constructed by Vickers-Armstrongs for the study of temperature and pressure conditions and other factors affecting planes at heights up to 70,000 feet.

A yellow dahlia exhibited at a show in London recently had a bloom 14 inches across.

*The Shakespeare Memorial Theatre Company will be making their first appearance in London on October 2, when they open at His Majesty's Theatre with Richard II.*

**OH!** Two Hastings fishermen had a shock when they caught a 40-pound electric ray.

For ideas to improve postal services, 150 Post Office men and women were given money awards during April, May, and June.

*A Boston, Lincolnshire, farmer has bought a 25-ton Sherman tank which was used at El Alamein, to use with an eight-furrow plough.*

**MORE COAL.** Scientific surveys for new coalfields have been made in Shropshire, Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, and Oxfordshire.

A four-and-a-half pound trout has been found in an engine supply tank on the L M S railway at Hurlford, Ayrshire.

**PHEW!** A Surrey schoolgirl, fishing from a Whitby yacht, caught a tunny weighing 714 lbs.

*Northern Ireland has announced a plan for a £5,500,000 health service.*

**WOODWOMEN.** Walking through the woods of Britain gathering information about the trees, are 12 young women census officers of the Forestry Commission. Their job is to make a record of the condition of the trees, their species, and rate of growth.

By a new Board of Trade order antiques, works of art, gold, platinum, silverware, diamonds, jewellery, furs, fur-skins, and postage stamps may not be taken out of the country without an export licence.

**FROM ARMADA DAYS.** The Mayor of Worcester has presented to Plymouth two woods said to have been used in games of bowls on the Hoe in Drake's time.

# YOUTH NEWS REEL

**AFTER TEN YEARS.** The next Rover Moot—an international gathering of Rover Scouts—is to be held in Norway in the summer of 1949. The last Moot was held in Scotland in 1939, one month before the outbreak of war.

Lord Rowallan, Chief Scout of the British Commonwealth and Empire, was one of twelve members elected to the International Committee by the Eleventh Biennial Scout Conference held last month in France.

*The Chief Constable's Association of Canada recently passed a resolution of appreciation for the invaluable services given by the Scouts of Canada to the various Police Departments.*

**MAKING GOOD CITIZENS.** Boys Clubs, based on the successful New South Wales Police-Citizens Boys Clubs, are to be started in main centres of New Zealand. Almost 10,000 boys between six and 20 are catered for by the N S W clubs, whose badge is a five-pointed star signifying Good Citzenship, Fitness, Honour, Loyalty, and Friendship.

The original manuscript of Scouting for Boys, written by Lord Baden-Powell forty years ago, and thought to have been destroyed, has recently come into the possession of the Boy Scouts Association.

*Clothing sent by Australian Guides to Guides in Great Britain is being sent on to Germany, where the Guide International Service team members are continuing their relief work.*

# The Patient's Friend

Next year the new Health Service begins, and the hospital almoner's duty of assessing and collecting the patient's payments will cease. In view of this the council of the Institute of Almoners has issued a statement of what it considers the duties of a hospital almoner should be in future.

First and foremost, the statement says, an almoner should help the doctor in the treatment of the patient, not as a nurse, but by studying the social and personal background of the patient and keeping in close contact with the doctor about treatment and after-care. In short, a hospital almoner should be the patient's friend and link with the outside world—a friend indeed.

The Institute of Almoners considers, too, that almoners should be ready to take some part in the teaching of medical students, nurses, and students in their own profession of almoner.

Many girls of good education who long to do social work seek this honourable profession, which is certain to play an increasingly important part in our hospital services. It is a select profession, and only the right type of girl will be considered.

The address of the Institute of Almoners is Tavistock House, North Tavistock Sq, London, W.C.1.

## *SAYING IT WITH FLOWERS*

Some time ago a Dutch football team visited Bridlington to play games with local footballers. The visitors were so impressed with the friendliness and hospitality shown by everyone in the town that on their return to Holland they collected 300 bulbs and sent them to the Town Council as a token of appreciation. Next spring the town hall grounds will be blooming with these beautiful messages of thanks.

## Cycling Angler

Mr Jack Brown, a well-known Berwick farmer, is an angler of some resource. Tired of always sitting on the bank waiting for the fish to come to him, he now pedals his "aquacycle" to the middle of the Chain Bridge stretch of the Tweed, where he is able to reach the bigger fish which had previously eluded him.

The aquacycle consists simply of an ordinary bicycle frame attached to two eight-foot galvanised steel floats. Mr Brown built it in his spare time at a workshop on his farm, and during the few weeks it has been in use his catches have been greatly increased. It takes him to spots usually inaccessible, where the trout lie undisturbed. He also enjoys it as a pleasure boat and intends to build a "tandem."

## *2000 PIPERS AND A'*

That stirring old Scottish song, "Wi' a hundred pipers and a' and a'," paled into insignificance on September 6 when nearly 2000 pipers paraded at the world championship pipe band contest at Murrayfield, Edinburgh. Such a concentration of skirling pipes has never been known before and the multitude of kilts with their varied tartans made a brave show on Murrayfield's greensward.

## Baling Out at High Speed

Wonders never cease. From a jet-propelled Gloster Meteor plane flying at over 500 miles an hour a pilot has baled out at 12,000 feet, and landed safely!

The pilot is 29-year-old Bernard Lynch, of the Martin-Baker Aircraft Company. The act of pulling a blind over his face, to protect him from the sudden rush of air, fired a cartridge which threw Mr Lynch upwards and clear of the plane, but still in his seat. In a few seconds the seat parachute opened, and after about two minutes, when he had fallen clear of the seat, the pilot's own parachute opened.

## *SAME SAUCER*

Eight-year-old Malcolm Riley, who lives at Eversham, has a jackdaw that drinks out of the same saucer as his cat.

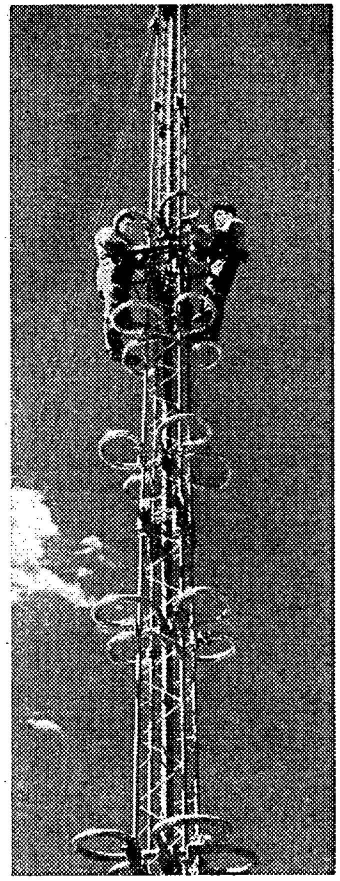
Jackdaws—members of the crow family—are intelligent birds, and when adopted as pets they become very much attached to their owners. Evidently young Malcolm's jackdaw is well trained; but the friendship with the family cat is probably more due to the cat.

## Tempering the Wind

The sheep and lambs that graze beneath the shadow of old Ben Cruachan on Mr John Ewart's farm at Taynuilt, Argyllshire, will be warmer next winter.

Mr Ewart has devised for them coats made of flour bags dipped in boiling linseed oil. These will protect the sheeps' and lambs' bodies from rain and damp, enabling them to contain their own natural warmth.

Winter can be very stern in the Western Highlands. Mr Ewart, however, hopes to winter his flocks in comfort on his farm.



**Wireless Mast**

Engineers at work on a new antenna at the Bell Laboratories, in America, designed to eliminate atmospherics in wireless receivers.

## SPORT SCRAPBOOK

The first swimming of the Channel made since 1939, and the 26th occasion since Captain Webb first did so in 1875, has been accomplished by D. Carpio, of Peru, who made the crossing from Cape Griz Nez to Dover in 14 hours 46 minutes. The record of 11 hours 5 minutes is held by Georges Michel, of France, made in 1926.

America retained the Davis Cup by beating Australia in the final.

Mr Jack Bray, the manager of Watford Football Club, began coaching local youngsters in a nearby park. The news quickly spread and Mr Bray was overwhelmed with more than a hundred enthusiastic lads turning out for his classes. Now he has enlisted the aid of six of the Watford players, who help in their spare time. Badges are awarded to those boys who pass a test in dribbling, heading, trapping, and passing the ball.

# Wild Life in Dry Weather

The long spell of hot, dry weather has had its effect on the lives of wild animals and birds which often have to search far to find their usual food, writes a country correspondent.

Earthworms and grubs, which are near the surface in wet weather, have been driven deeper or to the damp corners near water. Snails only show themselves in the cooler hours of very early morning, and many insects are in hiding during the day. Greenstuff has become scarcer.

As is always the case when hunger presses them, the wild creatures have grown bolder. Blackbirds are among the first to venture close to dwelling-places and to risk attacks from household cats. Sparrows and other small birds peck hungrily at any fresh green in the garden.

Those plucky little fellows, the shrews, could hardly show less fear than usual. One was seen hunting along a wall for insects. He even climbed vertically, clinging to the rough face of the bricks with his tiny claws, in order to probe under the coping with his long, pointed nose. When lifted down by a human hand, he chattered angrily but was still unafraid.

Moles have to work hard for a living in dry weather and at least one tried to vary his customary diet. He lived in a garden and seemed to know that the well was the haunt of many frogs, for he tunnelled his way down until he had reached a point in the side of the well and just above water level. There, with surprising swiftness, he stuck out his head, seized a fat frog and dragged it into his tunnel. No doubt he would have eaten the frog had not the owner of the garden intervened.

## *UNWANTED WALLABIES*

Wallabies which were introduced into New Zealand from Australia have become a pest to farmers in parts of the South Canterbury district. Hunters employed by the Government destroyed over 2000 wallabies, and it is expected that sheep farmers will now be able to keep these unwanted migrants in check.

## Producer to Consumer

An unusual world's record was broken recently at the Country Comes to Town Exhibition in Blackpool. It was the record for cutting a sheaf of wheat, threshing it, making the grain into flour, and baking a loaf of bread.

The old record of two and a half hours was set up in Italy in 1938. Great Britain's new record time is 40 minutes 5 seconds.

The sheaf was cut at a farm just outside Blackpool and rushed by car to the exhibition. There it was threshed in three and a half minutes, milled in another five and a half, and finally baked into bread in an electric oven by bakery students.

## *POSTMAN STAR*

A postman is the star in a film now being made for the Union of Post Office Workers. The film will show the familiar figure in blue on his daily round, and will illustrate how letters and parcels make their way to us, and will also show what happens when we make a phone call or send a telegram. It is hoped that the film will be shown in schools.

## Triple Crown For Temperance

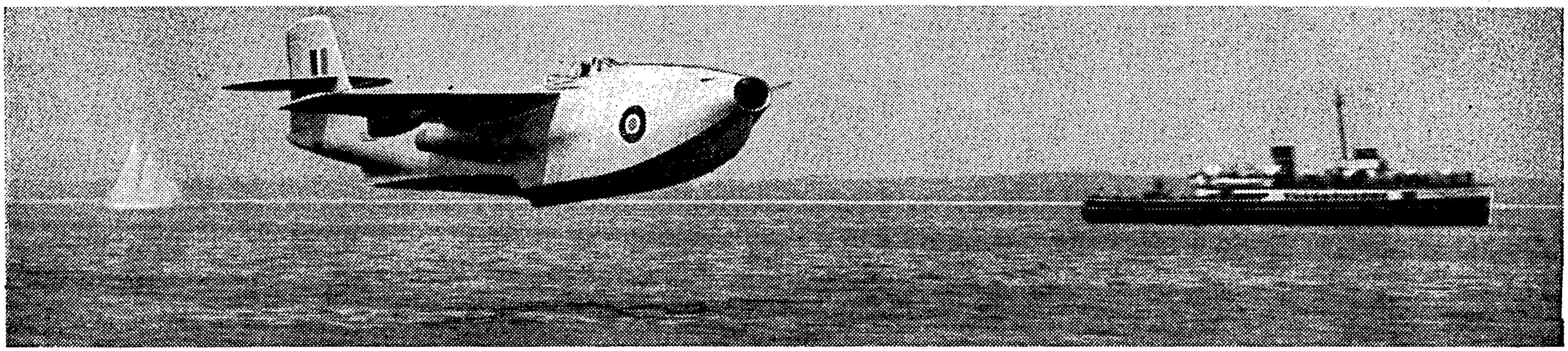
Honour to whom honour is due, and it is doubly due to Mr Cliff Britton not only for what he did but for the way he did it.

He is the Manager of the Burnley Football Club, and when he took his holiday to prepare to manage it this season he visited his old Sunday School at the Ebenezer Methodist Church, Hanham, Bristol. With him he took three of the English International caps he had won, one against Wales, another against Ireland, and the third against Scotland, to present them to the Church to which he belonged, and where, in the Band of Hope team of the Sunday School, his football was learned and his football career began. And on the glass case where they are now is an inscription that they are an appreciation of the life 87-year-old Mrs H. Jones has devoted to the cause of Temperance.

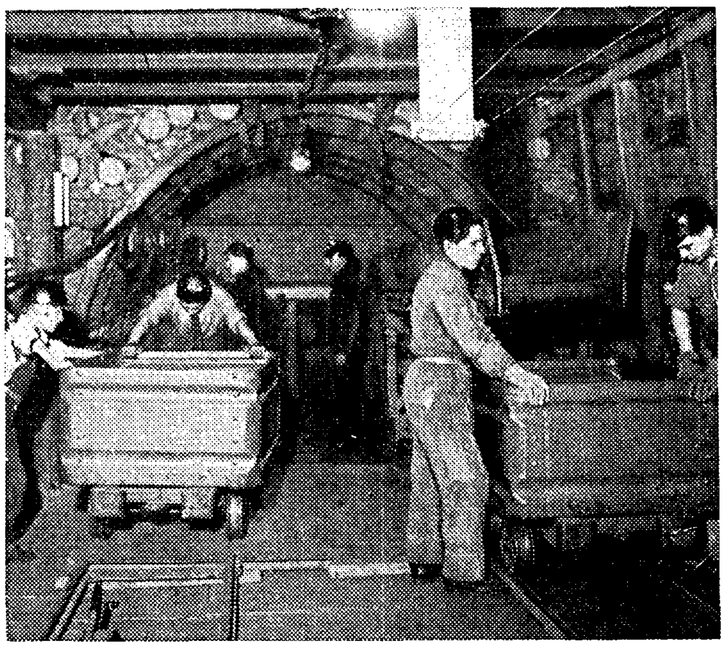
## *TRAIN DE LUXE*

A new Southern Railway train now running between Waterloo and Bournemouth has all the latest devices for railway travelling comfort and hygiene, including electric heating mats under the floor covering and close to each seat. Attached to the restaurant car is a kitchen with a stainless steel sink and draining board, and a pantry with a refrigerator and ice-cream conservator.

Eleven more trains of a similar type are being built in the Southern Railway's works at Eastleigh.



**JET FLYING-BOAT** With the graceful lines of her big sisters, the first jet-propelled flying boat fighter in the world speeds over the water near the Isle of Wight. Made by Saunders-Roe, the jet flying-boat is said to have a speed of over 400 m p h.



## School For Miners

The boys at South Notts Occupational Centre attend their classes not with books and pencils but with picks and headlamps, for at Bestwood Colliery, Nottinghamshire, this model mine has been built under the school where the boys are given a scientific knowledge of mining before they enter a real mine.

## MACE OF DESTINY

An old mace in the police court at Ashford has provided a little glimpse of past history. One of the magistrates noticed recently that the mace bore two inscriptions, and, when the grime had been removed, made a translation from the Latin. The first reads:

"The official mace of the constable of Ashford. It was the gift of Thomas Smith, a soldier of Dalney, who in 1621 became Viscount Strangford of the same manor house and liberty. It was restored between the years 1626 and 1631."

Above the original inscription is written:

"1829. This mace, which up to this time has followed the disasters and wrongs done to the ancient house whose dignity and wealth it once symbolised and which in like manner was lost for a long time and neglected, and then by chance found and recovered by Percy Clinton Sydney, sixth viscount of the Strangford family, and was restored. He, the fourth grandson of that Thomas Smith whose name and family crest are engraved below, joyfully took it as an omen that since God was looking with favour on him and his family and he himself was not relaxing his efforts, then better fortunes were foretold for his descendants."

The sixth Viscount Strangford, who so joyfully saw the recovered mace as an omen, was a very gifted man. His brilliance as a diplomatist was mingled with undoubted literary talents, and he was the friend of many well-known poets and writers. Byron, who knew him well, once wrote of him as

*Hibernian Strangford, with thine eyes of blue*
*And boasted locks of red or auburn hue.*

But as for the omen, within 15 years of his death his two sons, both fairly young men of considerable promise, had also passed away, and their titles had become extinct.

## 12,000 Miles to Win Cycling Fame

Two of the most enthusiastic cyclists competing in this country during the summer have been Harold Johnson and Alan Massey. They are Australians, and, if all goes well, they hope to represent their country in next year's Olympic Games.

Unable to provide the fare for the 12,000-mile trip to Great Britain, these two young men waited for over six months at the Sydney Docks before they managed to persuade the skipper of a Swedish ship to sign them on as stewards, so that they could work their passages to this country.

They brought their own racing cycles with them, and whenever their ship berthed at one of the world's ports the two chums went ashore and cycled hundreds of miles to keep themselves in racing trim. Reaching Britain, they soon showed their enthusiasm by offering to ride over any distance.

Harold Johnson competed in the recent six-day race from Brighton to Glasgow, while Alan Massey has been training hard for shorter-distance races.

Australia has produced some of the world's greatest cyclists, and Johnson and Massey may add their names to the long list of pedal champions when the Olympic Games are contested in London next year.

## *NO WASTE*

Men pulling down houses at Folkestone have discovered evidence of the way in which the builders of a century ago used up "make do and mend." They found that a facing-block of stone over a door was a tombstone, faultily inscribed; rather than waste a good piece of material, the builder had turned it back to front and used it in the house.

## Just Like Old Times

**By a West Country Correspondent**

There are hundreds of lofty mine stacks or chimneys down in Cornwall, but smoke comes from only a few of them nowadays. They stand as rude reminders of the industry and prosperity of ancient times, and Cornishmen have longed wistfully for a lasting revival.

Nothing would cheer the Cornish heart more than to hear the roar of the stamps again, to see "the rivers running red to the sea," and smoke pouring from the stacks. So we may well imagine the excitement in a mining district the other day when smoke belched from an ivy-clad stack on a tin mine which once yielded great riches.

Such a sight had not been known for over half a century, and word went round like wildfire that the old mine had started again! Aged miners rubbed their eyes and looked again at the smoke coming from the chimney-top and drifting across the countryside. Why, it was just like old times!

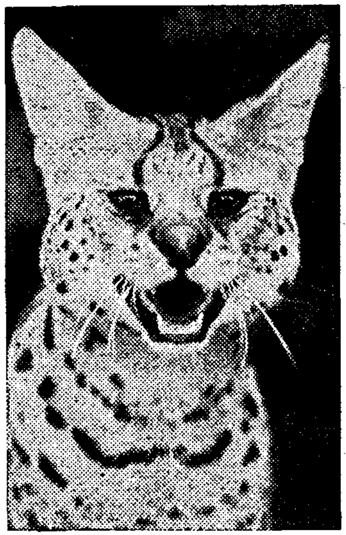
Filled with wonder, they hurried to investigate—only to find a parishioner busy burning up a lot of rubbish inside the stack!

## AS IN ARMADA DAYS

"And what have they done? What have they done?" This question asked three centuries ago about the Royal Society was answered at Dundee about the geographers by Professor E. G. Taylor, and was answered amply. We can only take a small fraction of the answer, but it relates to the Domesday Book. That survey of 1086 is being mapped. It can then be compared with the modern Domesday—the Land Utilisation Survey.

Other research workers are laboriously making field maps to show how land was being farmed in the early 19th century. In a few cases, too, it has been possible to reconstruct the exact country scene as far back as the days of the Armada.

## Smile, Please



Rufus, an East African Serval, or Tiger Cat as this animal is sometimes called, looks a little wild as he poses for the camera at the London Zoo.

# The Editor's Table

## MAKING FRIENDS

In these days when disagreements among nations and statesmen get so much publicity it is well worth while to remind ourselves that more people have moved about the world this year on missions of goodwill and understanding than at any time since 1938.

Lines of people have waited patiently at stations for tickets to the Continent; at the airports every seat for the distant places of the earth has been taken; every ship leaving Britain's shores for foreign lands has been crowded with passengers, and every ship coming to Britain has been thronged with eager visitors.

All over the world, too, youth has been on the move, crossing frontiers to greet friends of other nations. Scouts in Paris, Christian Youth at Oslo, the world's Sunday Schools in Birmingham, were but a few of the gatherings where the younger people met to discuss their place in world affairs, and to dream their dreams.

Many and varied strands of the world's life are now being re-knit after the break of war years, and these journeyings and meetings represent one of the liveliest hopes for world friendship. The war years at least showed to millions how little they knew of the other millions, and there was born in the hearts of many the urge to travel and to see for themselves. And it is good that there should be this urge, for we are no longer separated countries living separated lives, but a huge neighbourhood of nations ultimately dependent on one another.

The more mixing of the world's people there is, the more we shall understand the other man. We shall find that he is much like ourselves. His wants and hopes and dreams are ours too. He loves his home and the simple joys which surround his family and friends; he wants to enjoy them all and share them with other people in peace. His chief desire is to live his life without the constant threat of war and rumours of war.

Is all this merely a dream, a far-off vision, or can we, in our time, make it reality? If it were left entirely to the common folk in every land to answer there is no doubt what the answer would be. We must make it come true—and in our time. That is the cry of all people in every corner of the world.

*These things shall be, a loftier race*
*Than e'er the world hath known shall rise.*

It is with that vision that the C N recalls and hails all this year's movements among the world's people, knowing that only as people meet and get to know each other can they be expected to plan and act together.

## "We the Pe

*As the delegates of the 55*
*York for the 1947 General Asse*
*of the fine words from the Charter*

We, THE PEOPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS, determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind, and

to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and

to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and

to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom

## Looking Back—and Forward

Another season of Proms has ended; the last audience of enthusiastic Promenaders has gone its way, and the musicians have departed with their instruments to make music elsewhere for our delight.

But what pleasurable memories remain! In all the wide realm of entertainment there is surely nothing that gives pleasure quite so completely satisfying as the Promenade Concerts; and in a time of much tribulation and heartburning they have been a source of cheer and comfort as well as delight.

We bid the 53rd Season of Proms farewell with a sigh, and look forward to greeting the 54th with the joyful anticipation that is reserved for the return of old friends.

### *JUST AN IDEA*

*It is easy to find fault if one is on the look-out, but easier if one is on the look-in.*

## Under the E

**PETER PUCK WANTS TO KNOW**

**Who pays the fine on a fine day**

Coupons for Overseas Visitors? says a headline. How many to a coupon?

⊡

*A man says he does not mind his neighbour keeping a goat. So long as he keeps it out of his garden.*

⊡

In fencing, says a games master, much depends on the wrist. A few boards and nails may help.

⊡

*Our exports for July reached a new high peak. Must have been sent to mountainous country.*

⊡

Some people are afraid to go in an aeroplane. Think it would be all up with them.

## oples . . ."

*nited: Nations meet in New bly, it is as well to recall some hich brought the U N into being.*

AND FOR THESE ENDS

to practise tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours, and

to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security, and

to secure by the acceptance of principles and the institution of methods, that armed force shall not be used, save in the common interest, and

to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples,

HAVE RESOLVED TO COMBINE OUR EFFORTS TO ACCOMPLISH THESE AIMS.

## SHAKESPEARE IN THE HOPFIELDS

NEAR a Kentish oast-house, at Beltring, the other evening when work was done, thousands of hop-pickers enjoyed an open-air performance of Shakespeare's Twelfth Night, arranged by Mr J. H. Waghorn, a hop-grower, who makes a point of studying the comfort and welfare of those who work for him.

Many of the hop-pickers came from South London, and we may well wonder whether they agreed when Antonio said to Sebastian:

*Hold sir, here's my purse;*
*In the south suburbs, at the Elephant,*
*Is the best to lodge.*

## Work Plus

MUSIC, two-course dinner for tenpence, morning and afternoon tea and cake, half-price tickets for theatres, fifteen days' paid holiday, five-day week.

*A London laundry advertisement for workers*

## ditor's Table

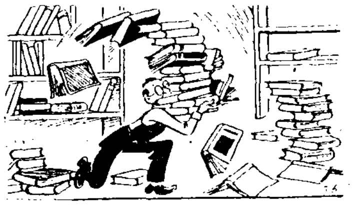
IT may be possible scientifically to shake dirt out of a garment instead of washing it. Can you beat it?

◆

*A YOUNG man is said to have spent his leave covering 1250 unnoticed miles. Should have looked where he was going.*

◆

POULTRY keepers fill egg shells with mustard to discourage jays from stealing eggs. It gives them a peck of trouble.



*A BOOK DEALER started his career when a small library was left on his hands. It put him on his feet.*

## IT'S AUTUMN AGAIN

THE leaves have been falling early this year. As we watch them flutter down we always give a thought to the grand show they made in summer, parading their fresh green for all to see, on oak, elm, ash, plane, chestnut, and those other grand trees for which our countryside is famous.

In those leaves, full of life as they sway in the gentle breezes, is a chemical substance called chlorophyll which gives colour to them.

As autumn approaches, the chlorophyll is drawn back into the tree. The leaves then have a yellow tint. Gradually, too, a skin grows over the place where the leaf joins the twig. Slowly, the leaf loses its connection with the twig. The chemicals remaining in the leaf become oxidised, that is, they run into iron compounds, giving those beautiful brown and red tints of autumn which we cannot but admire.

So, as soon as the skin is fully grown, the tree is finished with the leaf, and slowly it returns to the earth which gave it life.

## THINGS SAID

OF course we shall come through all right. It is wrong that such a question should be asked.

*The Minister of Food*

THIS is the greatest adventure ever engaged in to save the country. If you do it—glory be to God for the mineworker.

*Emanuel Shinwell at a miners' meeting*

I SUGGEST it is better to go without some of the trumperies of so-called civilised life and keep to the necessities to maintain a good physical condition in our own country.

*Ernest Bevin*

I HOPE that the nations free in America will be prepared each according to its ability and in its own manner to contribute to a lasting peace for the benefit of mankind.

*President Truman*

## Remembering the "Few"

THIS week is Battle of Britain week, ending with a service next Sunday at Westminster Abbey in aid of the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has appealed to the churches as a whole to follow the lead of the Abbey; and the C N on its part urges generous support for the Fund, which today is receiving heavier calls than ever.

Last year the Fund spent £500,000 on relief, and this included the education of the orphaned children of those few who gave their lives for the many.

## LITTLE BY LITTLE

PERSEVERANCE is more efficacious than violence; and many things which cannot be overcome when they stand together, yield themselves up when taken little by little. *Sertorius*

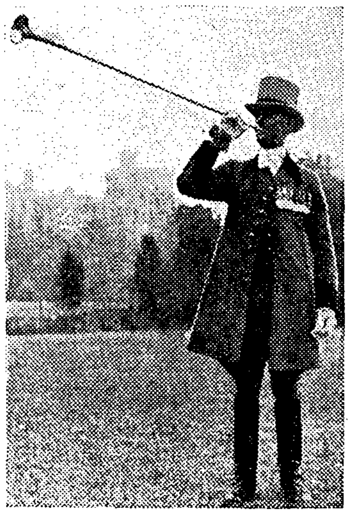
# 2000 Elephants Want Water

IN Southern Rhodesia is the Wankie Game Reserve, and in it are 2000 elephants that want water, and at present have to continue wanting, for there is not enough to go round.

That is the one blot on the Wankie Reserve, which has the makings of one of the most wonderful Reserves in the world if the game could be properly looked after. As it is, the game are drifting away in search of water elsewhere and to find instead the unscrupulous sportsman's rifle. That is all the more deplorable because the Wankie Reserve is the game's last refuge.

The mistaken policy that big game animals spread ngana fever that destroys cattle leads to the destruction of many; and vast areas are now being thrown open to shooting in the Zambesi Valley and elsewhere. If this continues then over the surviving elephants will have to be written: "This is the game that was."

## YESTERDAY & TODAY



**The Hornblower**

Red tunic and grey top-hat are the old-fashioned livery of the man who sounds the long coaching horn at horse shows.

## The Way of the Trolley-Bus

TROLLEY-BUSES which will never ply for hire on our roads are leaving the Kingston-on-Thames factory of the British United Traction Company. They are for overseas customers only, mostly for South Africa.

Apart from orders now in hand for overseas, 37 six-wheeled machines have already been built for Johannesburg, with another 23 to be completed by the end of October. At Johannesburg, which is 5500 feet above sea level, special tests have been completed to ensure that the 120 h p compound motors with which the buses are fitted will operate at that height and still maintain moderate temperatures.

But our trolley-buses, as was once said of the British soldier, are to be ready to go anywhere and do anything. They are on order for Saragossa, San Sebastian and Barcelona in Spain, for Pretoria, for Auckland in New Zealand, for Sao Paulo in South America, and for Tasmania.

# A FAMOUS BIRTHPLACE

THIS week marks the centenary of an important event in the story of the preservation of our English heritage; on September 16, just 100 years ago, Shakespeare's birthplace was bought by trustees on behalf of the nation.

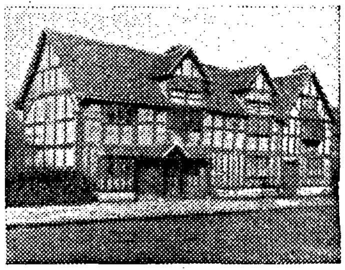
There are few towns in the world more delightful to visit than Stratford-upon-Avon; certainly there is none more visited by literary pilgrims. And among all the many sights of Stratford there is none more thrilling than Shakespeare's Birthplace.

Strange it is to think of this famous house—as famous as any house in the world—being put up for sale at public auction. Yet such was the case, and among the many treasures in the birthplace is a big printed bill announcing the sale at the Auction Mart, London, on Thursday, September 16, 1847.

Meanwhile a fund had been raised to make the building public property, and another document preserved at the birthplace is the original signed offer of £3000 made by the Stratford and London Committees of the Fund to George Robins, the auctioneer, "without regard to the Funds which they at present command, in the confidence that the justice of the Public will eventually discharge the Committees from the individual responsibility which they thus incur." Thus did the famous house pass into the safe keeping of the nation.

Shakespeare's birthplace, which has timbering showing it to be of earlier date than Queen Elizabeth's reign, was the property of the dramatist's father, John Shakespeare. From him it passed to his illustrious son, and then successively to his eldest daughter, Susanna Hall, and only granddaughter, Mrs Elizabeth Nash, afterwards Lady Barnard. Meanwhile, Shakespeare's sister, Mrs Joan Hart, had lived in the house from her birth in 1569 to her death in 1646; and it was during her time that the eastern part was let to a tenant who converted it into an inn.

Lady Barnard, who died in 1670, bequeathed the property to her cousin Thomas Hart, the grandson of Shakespeare's sister, and to the Hart family it continued to belong until 1806, when it was sold to one Thomas Court. On the death of the widowed Mrs Court, in 1847, Shakespeare's birthplace came into the market for the last time.



For a hundred years before that the house had been a show place. But in the hundred years since it has been lovingly cared for, restored as far as possible to the condition in which Shakespeare knew it, and filled with hundreds of relics associated with the immortal dramatist and his times.

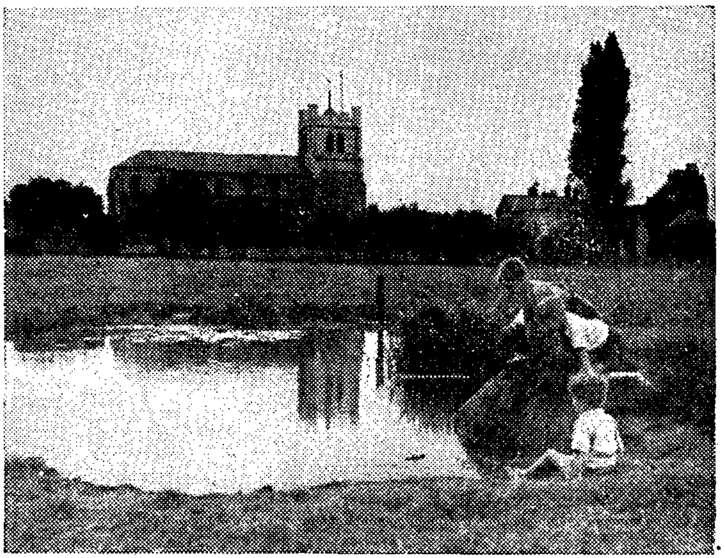
Today there is no house in all the land more famed than this, Shakespeare's birthplace at Stratford-upon-Avon in the heart of England; it is the Mecca of all English-speaking people—a precious corner of this dear, dear land held precious in the world's esteem.

# Loaf in the Air

THIS story of the discovery of an ingenious smuggling contrivance comes from the village of Heerlen, on the Dutch-German frontier. The frontier runs down the main street, separating the Dutch houses on one side from the German houses on the other.

One night a British sentry patrolling on the German side was struck on the head by a large object. Picking it up, he found it to be a loaf. Though the sentry had read of manna falling from the sky he was suspicious about a whole loaf materialising from thin air, so he decided to investigate.

Across the street he found that a Dutchman had constructed in his window a catapult for hurling bread to German confederates.



**THIS ENGLAND**

Waltham Abbey, Essex, believed to have been founded by King Harold

# Grand Old Lady of the Air

AUSTRALIAN airline men at the base at Rose Bay, Sydney, call the flying-boat Coriolanus the "Grand Old Lady."

Coriolanus was launched in Britain in 1937 and has recently completed two and a half million miles in 20,000 accident-free flying hours. Based in Britain, she flew mainly on the Empire routes to Australia and South Africa until war closed the Mediterranean to civil flying in 1940. Then, with many of her sister flying ships, she was based on Durban, maintaining the British routes to the Far East.

When the Japanese entered the war Coriolanus was transferred to Australia. Then began an exciting period of war service. With her sister ships, Coriolanus helped in the evacuation from Singapore and the East Indies. Unarmed, the flying-boats carried women and children and the wounded of the Allied nations to safety. Although many of her sister ships were war casualties Coriolanus escaped unscathed, to be switched later to emergency operations in New Guinea.

Here she was engaged in carrying urgent personnel and equipment into the war zone, and bringing back sick and wounded.

Coriolanus now maintains weekly return services to New Caledonia from Sydney, extending to Suva fortnightly.

## MAKING LIFE EASIER

ONCE again inventors are getting busy evolving new ideas to make life easier for mankind. A few of the latest ones include:

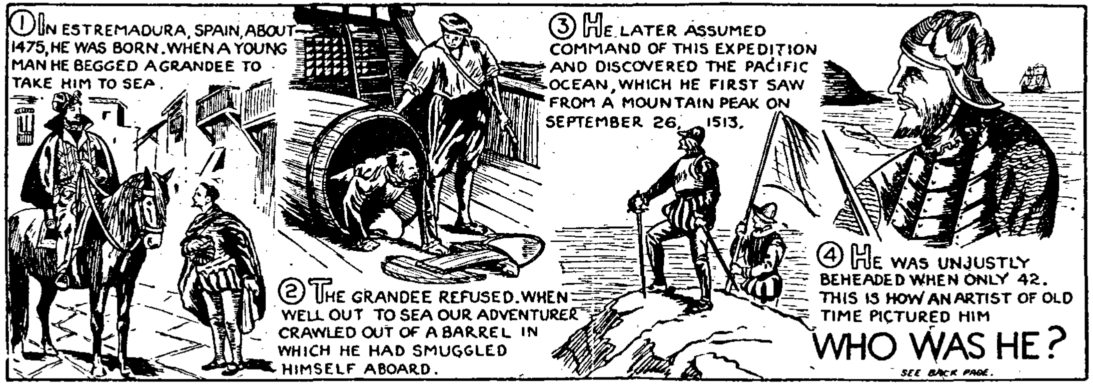
A tiny streamlined loudspeaker which is so slim that it can be slipped under a pillow.

An electric flycatcher with a grid which is claimed to exercise a fatal attraction for flies.

An illuminated screwdriver for working in the dark. This also has a special sliding gadget which allows other tools to be brought into action.

A piano only three feet high which can be hooked to the ceiling for invalids and others who wish to play while in bed.

# WHO WAS HE? ✿ Picture Story of a Great Explorer


① IN ESTREMADURA, SPAIN, ABOUT 1475, HE WAS BORN. WHEN A YOUNG MAN HE BEGGED A GRANDEE TO TAKE HIM TO SEA.
② THE GRANDEE REFUSED. WHEN WELL OUT TO SEA OUR ADVENTURER CRAWLED OUT OF A BARREL IN WHICH HE HAD SMUGGLED HIMSELF ABOARD.
③ HE LATER ASSUMED COMMAND OF THIS EXPEDITION AND DISCOVERED THE PACIFIC OCEAN, WHICH HE FIRST SAW FROM A MOUNTAIN PEAK ON SEPTEMBER 26, 1513.
④ HE WAS UNJUSTLY BEHEADED WHEN ONLY 42. THIS IS HOW AN ARTIST OF OLD TIME PICTURED HIM
WHO WAS HE?
SEE BACK PAGE.

# MANCHESTER'S SIX BISHOPS IN 100 YEARS

MANCHESTER is celebrating the centenary of its diocese and at the same time welcoming a new Bishop in the Revd W. D. L. Greer, who at the age of 45 enters into the heavy task of ruling for the Church of England one of the most populous areas in Britain.

A hundred years ago Manchester was part of the diocese of Chester; before that the county of Lancaster came under the direction of the Bishop of Lichfield; and in the early days of English Christianity it formed a remote and wild part of the Bishop of Mercia's diocese. A hundred years ago, when the first Bishop of Manchester was appointed (Dr Prince Lee), the diocese stretched from the Mersey to the Scottish border, with over a million people, but only 284 churches. Lancashire was then on the full tide of its industrial expansion and the new diocese of Manchester had the big job of building churches and providing clergymen.

One of the most loved of Manchester's six bishops is commemorated by a statue in Albert Square. He was Bishop Fraser, who walked about Lancashire talking to the people. He knew most of the Manchester policemen by name, and once carried a poor girl's bag all the way from Victoria Station to a mean street in Salford. He wrote 4000 letters a year with his own hand and gave away over £30,000 to charity out of his own pocket.

A delightful story is told of Bishop Moorhouse, who was Bishop from 1886 to 1903. He was visiting a village school and talked with one of the boys:

Bishop Moorhouse: "Have you been good this morning?"

Small boy (after long pause): "Yes."

Bishop: "What do you do when you are good?"

Boy (after long pause): "Please, sir, us folds our arms."

Bishop: "What has that to do with your being good?"

Boy: "Please, sir, it keeps our belly warm."

"That boy is a philosopher," said Moorhouse to his chaplain. "He has discovered the connection between the stomach and the conscience."

After Bishop Moorhouse came Bishop Knox, Bishop Temple, who became Archbishop of Canterbury, and the present retiring Bishop, Dr Warman.

Manchester's diocese was made smaller in 1926 when the new diocese of Blackburn was created. But in its hundredth year it stands as one of the most important areas of the English Church, covering a population of 2¼ millions and with 484 clergy. The new Bishop, who is a young man for such an important post, comes to his task with the prayers of thousands.

# Farewell, "Big Bill"

PARTINGS are never pleasant, and the decision by William Eric Bowes, the tall, bespectacled Yorkshire fast bowler, to retire from county cricket will be regretted by all followers of the game.

It was in 1928, at the age of 20, that Yorkshire introduced the fair-haired, ungainly-built fast bowler to the game. Since then this Leeds-born cricketer has captured over 1600 wickets, a total which would have been well over 2000 but for the war.

Bowes was commissioned in the Army and served in the Middle East, where he was taken prisoner. A long spell in Italian and German prison camps impaired his health, and since his return to first-class cricket last season he has never revealed his former bowling fire. Because of this he has been forced reluctantly to announce his retirement.

Before the war Bowes appeared in four Test matches against Australia, three against South Africa and two against the West Indies, and last summer he was chosen to play against India. His finest performance for Yorkshire was in 1935 against Northants, when he dismissed 16 batsmen for only 35 runs (eight for 18 and eight for 17), a brilliant feat for a fast bowler.

Now "Big Bill" Bowes is leaving the cricket stage, but his whole-hearted sportsmanship will not be forgotten.

# Pilgrim Fathers Sail Again

ON Thursday, September 25, the Pilgrim Fathers again begin their journeyings in the good ship Mayflower. On that day, and every weekday until October 4, Hugh Parry's pageant play, The Mayflower, is being performed at the Scala Theatre, in London.

In 17 beautiful scenes this famous play tells the story of the Pilgrim Fathers in dramatic fashion, tracing it from those early days when the followers of William Brewster, Master of the Post in Scrooby village, Nottinghamshire, are persecuted and denied the freedom to worship.

From Scrooby Manor the scene shifts to Boston in Lincolnshire, and thence via Leyden and Southampton to the Barbican at Plymouth, where the captain of the Mayflower calls the Pilgrims on board, and, the venture having been dedicated to God, the ship of immortal memory sets sail.

The pageant next unfolds scenes in the New World, where fresh perils and fresh triumphs await the settlers; and then marches on to a climax of splendour with the spirit of those fearless Pilgrims moving the life of the world towards the brotherhood of nations.

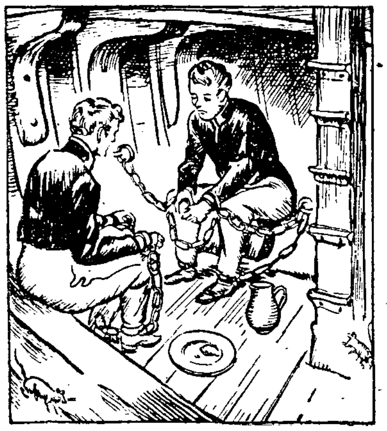
Thus is one of the most thrilling stories in history performed on the stage for our inspiration and delight.

Hugh Parry's pageant play has already been performed over 1200 times in various big towns and cities. Now that it is being revived in London there will surely be a host of people seizing the chance to see it for the first or a second or maybe a third time. Details can be had from Scala Theatre, or from Pageant Booking Office, Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street, London, E C 4.

## *MORE TREES*

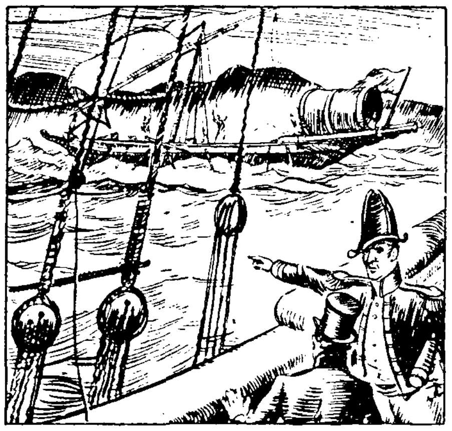
AT Hamsterley in County Durham the Forestry Commission have planted millions of young trees on 5000 acres of what used to be one of the best grouse-shooting moors. When fully grown they will be used to supply pit props and wood pulp. Two hundred and fifty men are now engaged in this transformation of a barren moorland district.

# *MR MIDSHIPMAN EASY—Captain Marryat's Great Story of the Sea, Told in Pictures*

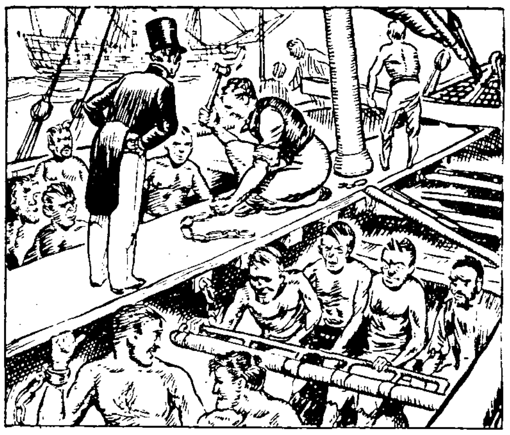


Enraged that his "hosts" were only runaway midshipmen, Captain Tartar had them put in irons on board the Aurora. One of their Sicilian friends, scandalised at Tartar's treatment of the young men whose hospitality he had accepted, challenged the Captain to a duel. In the ensuing combat Tartar was shot dead.

The First Lieutenant of the Aurora, released the pair and took them to Malta. The Governor of Malta, who liked Jack, sent for him and Captain Wilson and interceded for Jack. So Captain Wilson again forgave Jack. Later, Captain Wilson was given command of the Aurora, and Jack, Gascoigne, and Mesty joined that frigate with him.



Some weeks later the Aurora was sent to Palermo. Jack was delighted at this chance of seeing again his Sicilian friend Agnes. Off the coast of Sicily they saw a galley on the rocks. The galley-slaves, condemned criminals chained to their seats, were signalling for help. The crew had saved themselves and left these poor wretches to their fate.



Captain Wilson ordered Jack and Gascoigne to go in the cutter and free the slaves. The armourer knocked off the criminals' fetters. But when the last boatload had been put ashore, one of the freed men turned and laughed mockingly at Jack, who recognised the assassin from whom he had rescued Agnes' father, Don Ribiera. "He'll take those villains to Ribiera's house," exclaimed Jack.

***What can Jack do to save Agnes and her father? See next week's instalment***

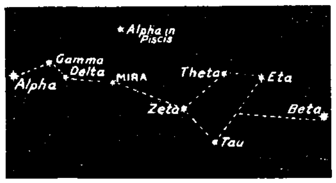
# MARVELS OF CETUS THE WHALE

By the C N Astronomer

THE immense constellation of Cetus, the celestial Whale, may now be seen in the south-east sky late in the evening and covering most of the heavens below the Great Square of Pegasus, which was described in the C N of August 23.

Though known popularly as the Whale, Cetus actually represents the mythological Sea Monster that was sent by Poseidon, the god of the sea, to destroy Andromeda; for owing to Poseidon's jealousy, Andromeda had been chained to a rock. Perseus rescued Andromeda, Cetus was turned to stone, and Andromeda became the bride of Perseus. Andromeda now provides the spectacle of the little "shooting stars," or Andromedids, a few of which we may see in November.

The constellation of Cetus may be readily identified by means of the star map, the four stars Theta, Eta, Tau, and Zeta being arranged in the easily recognised form that will be a guide to the rest.



The chief stars of Cetus, showing where Mira is expected to appear.

The bright second-magnitude Beta will be obvious a little to the right of these. This is at the Tail of the Monster and is also known as Deneb Kaitos, meaning "Whale's Tail" in Arabic. Beta is a sun radiating about 35 times more light than our Sun but from a distance 3,600,000 times greater, its light taking 57 years to reach us.

Alpha represents the Nose of the Whale, its Arabic name Menkar meaning the Nose. This is one of the "Giants" of the Heavens, possessing a measured diameter of 97 million miles—more than 112 times greater than that of our Sun. It radiates about 200 times more light than our Sun, but it is 9,400,000 times farther away. A faint bluish "companion" sun appears to be near to Alpha.

Gamma is actually composed of two suns which are travelling together toward the south-west. The smaller one is probably revolving round the larger yellow sun; both are about 4,240,000 times farther away than our Sun.

Now we come to the stellar quartette referred to above. Of these, Tau is of particular interest as being the nearest star visible to the naked eye from the latitude of Britain in the evening at the present time. It is only 654,000 times farther than the Sun, its light taking ten years and four months to reach us. From Theta light takes 32½ years, and this is a much larger sun than Tau and radiates nearly three times more light than our Sun. From Eta, a much larger sun, light takes 99 years. Zeta is composed of two suns which revolve round a central point between them in only 16½ days.

Of greatest interest is the wonderful star Mira which fades out of sight for several months and then blazes up. Details of this must be reserved for our next article. G. F. M.

# India's Revealing Art

A FASCINATING exhibition, The Human Form in Indian Sculpture, is now on view at the Victoria and Albert Museum. It heralds the Winter Exhibition at the Royal Academy which will cover every branch of India's amazing art.

Indian Art is a revelation of the mind and character of the peoples of India. It is a religious art; and a presentation of the inward beliefs of India's four faiths, Buddhism, Jainism, Hinduism, and Mohammedanism. Buddhism takes precedence, but before Buddha were the immemorial Vedas, an Aryan Sanskrit-speaking people, and Vedic thought, tradition, and custom governed the art of India in the earliest times and have continued to do so to the present day. Buddha was the mortal who became the immortal of Buddhism; Brahma, the Creator, with Vishnu and Siva, the Three in One god, represent Hinduism; Jainism was an offshoot of Buddhism; and Mohammedanism the latest to come.

The impress of these beliefs and faiths is visible in the shrines, the temples, the mausoleums, even the palaces of India; and the study of Indian art must begin in architecture. It becomes then not that of a bewildering museum of the efforts of days that are gone, but that of a living tradition.

In the worship of Buddha, the building, the Stupa, became the shrine for the relics of Buddha, who became immortal. To the Hindus or Brahmans it became a temple of or a monument to the kingly authority, but was offered to their deities.

These towering shrines, these solemn mausoleums, these majestic cathedrals, which "nightly to the listening Earth proclaim the story of their birth," stud like jewels the whole length and breadth of India.

Models of these buildings, however beautifully fashioned, can do but scant justice to these wonderful shrines—the Mohammedan Taj Mahal at Agra, for example.

Sculpture, however, does not present the same obstacles to transport as the temple or the mausoleum, for though we cannot remove such splendours as the statue of the Buddha at Anuradhapura in Ceylon, one of the masterpieces of its age, there are noble Buddhas and Bodhisattras at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Sculptured bas-reliefs of the gods are even more accessible: and they properly appertain to the more highly decorated Brahman shrines and ritual. Vishnu's emblem is the Sun at noon supporting the heavens, or at night sunk beneath the Earth and reposing on the coils of the Serpent of Eternity. Siva's emblems are the setting sun and the waning moon, but he is also the Conqueror of Death; and the Gracious Lord of Knowledge, of the Arts, and Lord of the Dance. These great Gods are followed by a retinue of half-gods, each with an emblem, Indra god of War, Varuna of Water, Parvati the Universal Mother, Kuvera the god of Wealth, Ganesha the wise Elephant, the god whose grotesque head is often carved above the doorway of the home.

However these emblems may puzzle some of us, one section in this exhibition will appeal to every visitor, for it reveals that deep affection the Indian sculptor has always felt for animals.

# IN THE WAY THEY SHOULD GO

AS Education should always gild the pill of instruction with entertainment, we are glad to find that the Ministry of Education's films to show how children should learn the way they should go, fulfil this purpose to admiration. The first is, Children Learning by Experience; the second, Children Growing Up With Other People; and both have been produced for the benefit of teachers in training.

The most austere person could not forgo a smile at the picture of the baby doing its best to learn how to get its foot into its mouth, or at a later stage in its career angrily and with furrowed brow assaulting its brother who will not let go of the nursery's tricycle. Nurse is one of the teachers, Father and Mother being the others, who must learn through their children what is best for them.

Children really learn by imitation, and they learn best by imitating other children. In this film they may be seen doing it—they learn fastest about the age of five—and after that they are pictured at their own tea-party, reserving to the hostess the task of pouring out; or being nurses, with dolls for patients; and then at much more advanced age—especially boys—being policemen, or soldiers.

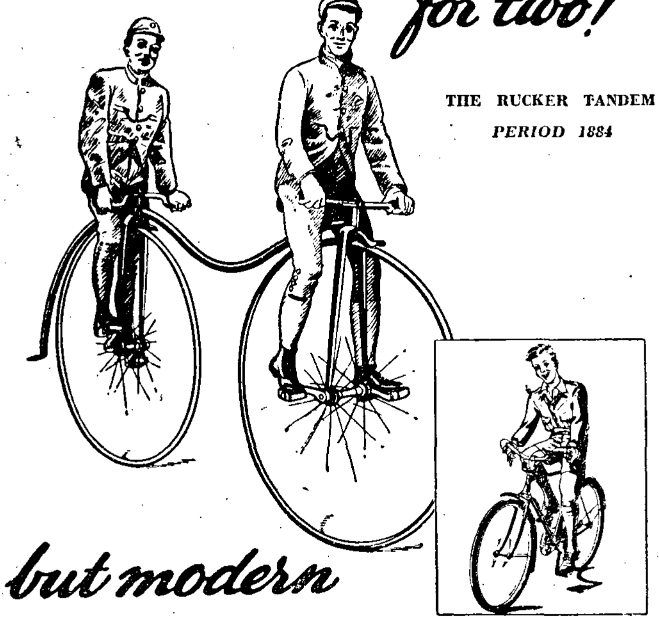
The second film is that of children growing up with other people—older children than themselves, parents, teachers and instructors, those among these who are patient and themselves learn as they try to teach, and those who never learn patience nor how to bring up these young things who are so strange to them.

In these pictures we can see how things go right and how easily things go wrong. This series ends with a speaking group of students round about the age of twenty discussing with gravity the years of life that lay before them. One of the group of four concludes with mock seriousness, "Well, for my part I'm looking forward to my second childhood!" A very good epilogue to the film.

## Scientists-To-Be

AT the Imperial College of Science and Technology, whose professors and teachers and students did so much to place science at the service of the country in the war, a continuance of that service now is to be promoted by 20 Royal Scholarships and 11 Studentships for approved courses in Science and Engineering.

The examination will be held next April; and the candidates can apply for scholarships or studentships in Engineering, Physics, Chemistry, Biology or Botany or Zoology, and Geology.



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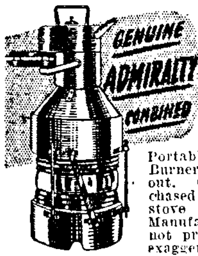

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# THE BRAN TUB

## FINIS

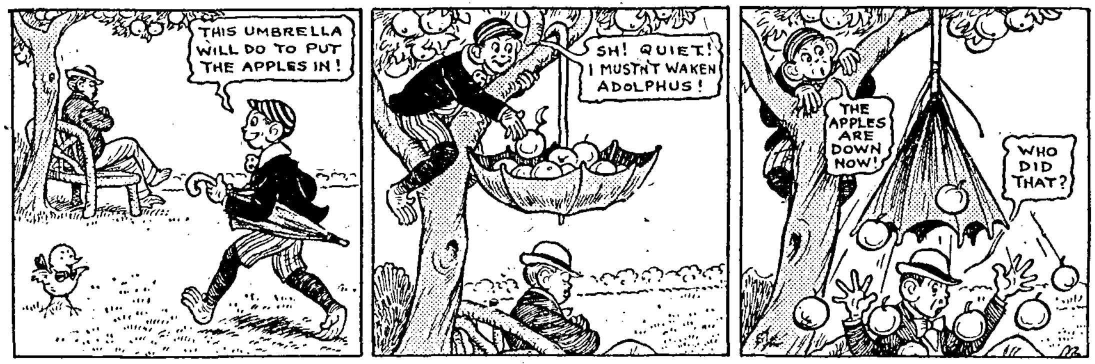
Little Billy came dashing in with tears in his eyes. "Mother," he cried, "you know that vase you said was handed down from generation to generation? Well, this generation has dropped it."

## EXHAUSTED

In the C N recently we mentioned the "Particular Lion," a cheerful little fellow who acts as guide to the children visiting the Enterprise Scotland Exhibition, at Edinburgh. He got his name because—to quote him: "I am particular about my surroundings, about ideas, and about things."

Here we see our normally happy guide after a busy day's work describing the exhibits and pointing out matters of interest to the younger visitors to Enterprise Scotland.

## Jacko "The Umbrella Man"


THIS UMBRELLA WILL DO TO PUT THE APPLES IN!
SH! QUIET! I MUSTN'T WAKEN ADOLPHUS!
THE APPLES ARE DOWN NOW!
WHO DID THAT?

Jacko had heard that "an apple a day keeps the doctor away."

So he was making sure that he would not need the doctor for many weeks.

But Adolphus probably did when it suddenly started "raining apples."

## FARMER GRAY EXPLAINS

**Harvestmen.** "Oh!" squealed Ann, leaping swiftly from her seat in the summerhouse.

"What's the matter?" exclaimed Farmer Gray, attracted by the noise.

"Pooh, it's only a spider," grinned Don, indicating an insect with a small body and very long legs.

"As a matter of fact it is a harvestman," said the farmer. "If you look closely you will see that it has no waist and only two eyes. Its eight legs are longer in proportion to its body than any spider's. Harvestmen are not equipped with spinnerettes, consequently they build no web. Their food consists mainly of dead matter, so you see that they really differ considerably from spiders."

## Who Was He?

The man in the picture story on page 6 was Balboa.

## —BEDTIME CORNER—

## The Birthday Surprise

Robert couldn't help overhearing his Auntie telephoning in the hall. She didn't know he was in the drawing-room, reading. She was going home that morning and was ringing up uncle.

"We'll have to think what we're going to send Robert for his birthday next week," she said. "A bicycle? Oh, no! He can't ride a bicycle, and his mother would not want him to have one."

Robert's heart sank. He *could* ride a bicycle, and he was longing for one of his own. He was not supposed to have heard what Auntie was saying on the telephone. Mother was out or he could have got her to drop a hint—and Auntie was leaving on the 10.30 train.

Later Auntie saw Robert in the garden and waved goodbye to him.

Sadly he went to call for his friend, Harry. But there another disappointment awaited him. Harry had developed measles!

"I say Robert, old chap," Harry called down from his bedroom. "Could you borrow my bike and go and fetch my C N?"

"Oh, if you're going down the town, I wonder if you'd call at the grocer's for me?" said Harry's mother.

Soon Robert was pedalling away down to the town. "If only Auntie could see me now," he thought sorrowfully. "But Auntie has gone by now."

He had to pass the station, and outside, to his astonishment, he saw Mother and Auntie standing, laughing heartily. As he rode up and jumped off Mother exclaimed: "Well, we are silly, Robert! We looked at last year's timetable for Auntie's train, and the 10.30 isn't running any more!"

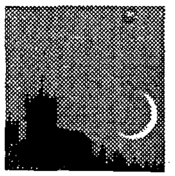
"Goodness!" cried Auntie. "Can you ride a bicycle, Robert?"

"Of course he can! Why do you ask?" replied Mother.

"Oh, nothing," murmured Auntie vaguely.

But next week a fine new bicycle arrived for Robert's birthday.

## Other Worlds



In the evening Jupiter is low in the south-west. In the morning Saturn is in the east and Mars is in the south-east. The picture shows the moon at 7 p m on Wednesday, September 17.

## EXPLANATORY

When asked when a certain person died Sammy Simple replied, "If he'd lived till today he'd have been dead a week."

## Tongue Twister

Merry Mary Morris married Mister Monty Manners.

## Children's Hour

*BBC Programmes from Wednesday, September 17, to Tuesday, September 23*

WEDNESDAY, 5.0 How the Wireless Came to Toytown. 5.30 Coloured Coons. *North*, 5.30 Unusual Artists from Belle Vue Zoo. *Scottish*, 5.20 Songs from the Lion and the Crocodile; It Happened in the Hebrides—a talk.

THURSDAY, 5.0 Four Plus Bunkie (3). *Welsh*, 5.30 The Story of the Red Dragon; A Musical Puzzle.

FRIDAY, 5.0 Songs; The Cat who lost her Kittens; Songs; The House that Wasn't There. *Northern Ireland*, 5.0 A story; Ships in Bottles; Been Camping?—a talk; Humour in Music (2). *North*, 5.0 Three Stories—The Unveiling of Sir Jacko Stephen and the Witch, and Something New Under the Sun; Piano Solos. *Scottish*, 5.0 A Visit to the Farmyard. 5.25 The East Neuk of Fife.

SATURDAY, 5.0 Tammy Troot Story; Full Steam Ahead. *West*, 5.0 Witherow—a story; Piano. 5.30 Wildflower Quiz.

SUNDAY, 5.0 Harvest Home.

MONDAY, 5.0 Alice in Wonderland (Part 1). 5.35 Book Review.

TUESDAY, 5.0 Competition Results. 5.25 Nature Parliament. *Midland*, 5.0 Monk and Bun. *Scottish*, 5.0 A Tale from the Murmuring Forest—a play. *West*, 5.0 The Courage of Clara Chuff—a play.

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## SAFETY FIRST

The aviator's wife is strange
In one way, beyond doubt;
Her heart rejoices when she sees
Her husband down and out.

## Pithy Proverb

Of all the things you wear your expression is the most important.

## *HIDDEN ANIMALS*

*Each line of the rhyme shown below contains the name of an animal.*

Demure she waits in mood profound
Seated on the grassy mound,
The thrushes share her solitude
Warbling songs of gratitude.
Lilacs scatter fragrance sweet,
Foxgloves sway about her feet.

*Answer next week*

## January to December

Snowy, Flowy, Blowy
Showery, Flowery,
Bowery.
Hoppy, Croppy, Droppy,
Breezy, Sneezy, Freezy.

*Old-time saying on the Twelve Months.*

## LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| B | R | U | S | H | ▨ | F | A | D |
| A | I | R | ▨ | A | B | A | T | E |
| T | A | B | ▨ | R | A | T | E | L |
| ▨ | N | A | M | E | D | ▨ | ▨ | A |
| E | T | N | A | ▨ | G | R | E | Y |
| R | ▨ | ▨ | G | L | E | A | M | ▨ |
| U | N | T | I | E | ▨ | I | M | P |
| P | E | A | C | E | ▨ | L | E | A |
| T | E | N | ▨ | R | U | S | T | Y |

**Beheading**

The word was Smike (Mike, Ike)

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